

July 17, 2003

MEMORANDUM TO: John A. Nakoski, Section Chief
Project Directorate II-1
Division of Licensing Project Management, NRR

FROM: Robert E. Martin, Senior Project Manager /RA/
Project Directorate II-1
Division of Licensing Project Management, NRR

SUBJECT: GRANTING VERBAL AUTHORIZATION TO LICENSEE'S
ALTERNATIVE (TAC NO. MB9985)

In letters dated July 15 and 16, 2003, the licensee requested relief from the requirements for quarterly stroke testing of valve 1CA-42B. Details of the request and background information are provided in the two letters from the licensee.

On July 16, 2003, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff (J. A. Nakoski, R. E. Martin, D. Terao, T. Scarbrough) held a telephone conference with representatives of the licensee, Duke Power, (N. T. Simms, E. Hyland, S. Karriker, T. Welch and J. Peele). The NRC Resident Inspector, J. B. Brady, was also in attendance with the licensee's staff.

The NRC staff indicated that it had reviewed the licensee's written request and found that the licensee had adequately explained the unexpected circumstances surrounding the request and had justified why the licensee could not submit the proposed alternative to the NRC early enough for the NRC staff to process it using normal relief request review processes. The NRC staff indicated that it had completed its review and determined that the proposed alternative is technically justified. Accordingly, the NRC staff provided a verbal authorization of the proposed licensee's alternative. The NRC staff will formally document its approval of the request for relief in a forthcoming letter to the licensee.

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